

(B)

15 October 1947

MEMORANDUM TO: Assistant Director, OGP

SUBJECT: Army-Navy Munitions Board Requirements

1. Reference is made to your memorandum of 17 September 1947 on the subject Army-Navy Munitions Board Requirements.

2. Originally it was hoped that a large part of the intelligence desired by the Munitions Board would prove to be readily available from the various bureaus and other agencies of the Government and that the responsibility of Central Intelligence would be merely that of evaluation of such materials in relation to the particular needs of the Munitions Board. Unfortunately, this has not proven to be the case.

3. It is now evident that the research required to supply the Munitions Board with the evaluated intelligence, even based upon the incomplete questionnaires which they originally sent to us, is very extensive indeed and can be done only by thoroughly qualified specialist personnel. We now have on the staff of our Economics Group or in process of recruitment many of the qualified specialist personnel in minerals, chemicals, financial, commercial and other economic fields which will be necessary in order to make the evaluations for the Munitions Board and to meet similar requests from other agencies in the future. A considerable part of the time of this staff is now assigned to the Munitions Board Project.

4. Our specialists are in frequent contact with the staff of the Munitions Board in order to obviate any possible duplication of effort and to prepare the intelligence in the form which will be most useful to the Board. For our guidance we have set up the following targets:

Part I - A. For the countries listed, evaluation of the situation with regard to antimony and tin - approximately 15 November.

B. For the countries listed, evaluation of the situation with regard to selected major ferrous-alloy metals - approximately 15 December.

C. Since the rate at which qualified personnel may be expected to report and the exact nature of the availability of the essential information has not been fully determined, it has not been possible to set target dates for the completion of reports dealing with other minerals in Part I of the questionnaire.

Part II - A. The analyses for the first country requested by the Munitions Board are expected to be completed at intervals beginning about 15 November. The analyses for other countries will be undertaken after consultation with the Munitions Board.

Part III - A. The analysis for selected chemical industries for the first country requested by the Munitions Board should be available 1 November.

B. The analyses for the other industries are expected to be completed about 15 December with the possible exception of the machinery industries.

Part IV - A. The analysis of the current air transportation position for the first country under consideration should be available 20 December.

B. The completion of the analysis of other forms of transportation will depend upon the availability of specialist personnel now in process of procurement.

Part V - A. The analysis of the food situation for the first country requested by the Munitions Board should be available by 1 November.

Part VI - A. The analysis of the commercial treaties entered into by the first country under consideration should be completed about 10 November 1947.

5. I hope that the above statement will supply the desired information, and if you think necessary, I shall be pleased to discuss this project further with you.

THEODORE BARBITT  
Assistant Director  
Reports & Estimates

25X1A

[redacted] mas  
Copies: 1 - Ass't. Dir., OCS  
2 - 25X1A " ORE  
✓ 1 - [redacted] "  
3 - Economics Group